



State of Connecticut

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*Testimony by Representative Pam Staneski
Before the Labor and Public Employees' Committee
In support of House Bills 5510, 5511, and 6250
February 24, 2015*

Good evening Chairmen Tercyak and Winfield, Ranking Members Hwang and Rutigliano, and members of the Labor and Public Employees' Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to provide testimony in favor of HB 5510, 5511, and 6250.

While I have three specific bills before this committee, I am hopeful that HB5510 will get serious consideration by the committee. **HB 5510, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS**, will provide financial relief to the state and municipalities by immediately increasing the threshold amount for public works projects required to pay prevailing wages and to ensure that the threshold for prevailing wage laws keeps pace with inflation.

The threshold has not changed since 1991. If the law, when originally adopted, had been indexed to inflation, the current threshold for new construction would be approximately \$700,000 today and \$174,000 for remodeling projects (Bureau of Labor CPI Calculator).

Modifying the threshold of our current prevailing wage law will provide much needed economic relief to our municipalities. It will also expand the opportunity for smaller construction companies to bid on projects in their town, creating local jobs.

The other two bills that I have introduced were with the intent, again, to provide relief to our financially strapped towns:

- **HB 5511, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PROJECTS**, will provide property tax relief to towns and to ensure that maximum funding is made available for local school and transportation projects.
- **HB 6250, AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND THE PREVAILING WAGE STANDARD**, will ensure that the prevailing wage threshold does not include costs defrayed by funds by a private source.

Thank you for holding this hearing and I ask the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

Rep. Pam Staneski